

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 SS-15 NSC-05 SAJ-01

L-03 H-02 IOE-00 /094 W
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P 231346Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2170

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY GENEVA PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK 618

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PORG, ELAB, NO, JA

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN AND JAPANESE CANDIDATES FOR ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) TOKYO 10969 (NOTAL), (B) OSLO 3439 (NOTAL), (C) STATE

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SUMMARY: LEADER OF KEY NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S UNION SHARES DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO UNITE WEST ON ONE CANDIDATE TO BLOCK EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST FROM MARITIME CONFERENCE CHAIRMANSHIP. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NORWEGIAN HAREIDE CANDIDACY WAS HELD BACK FOR THIS REASON AND ADVANCE ONLY WHEN JAPANESE CANDIDACY WAS LAUNCHED. HE ASSERTS JAPANESE CANDIDACY IS UNACCEPTABLE FROM TRADE UNION POINT OF VIEW BECAUSE HE ALLEGES JAPAN VIOLATES ILO SPIRIT BY SUPPRESSING PUBLIC SECTOR UNION ORGANIZATION, SPECIFICALLY ON RAILROADS, AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY ARRESTED JAPANESE RAILROAD UNIONISTS. SEAMAN'S UNION LEADER WILL NOW TRY TO USE LEGITIMATE RUSSIAN SHIPPING INTERESTS AS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL OF EAST EUROPEAN CANDIDATE. WE ARE UNCERTAIN HOW NORWAY'S LABOR GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE ILO ISSUE NOW GIVEN STRONG UNION ATTITUDE ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY

1. AS PROMISED BY NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION (LO) PRESIDENT TOR ASPENGREN, NORWEGIAN SEAMAN'S UNION PRESIDENT HENRIK AASAROD INTERRUPTED HIS VACATION TO PHONE EMBASSY LABATT JULY 22. AASAROD EMPHASIZED THAT HIS UNION SHARES THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO AVOID A COMMUNIST EAST EUROPEAN CHAIRMAN OF THE MARITIME CONFERENCE, AND THUS WISHES TO AGREE ON A COMMON WESTERN CANDIDATE. HE EMPHASIZED ALSO THAT HE AND HIS UNION, LIKE THE US, TAKE THIS POSITION OUT OF THEIR CONCERN TO DEFEND TRIPARTISM AND FREE TRADE UNION INFLUENCE IN THE ILO AND TO STRENGTHEN THE ILO AS A DEFENDER OF WORKERS RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE INTO FREE TRADE UNIONS. FROM THIS STANDPOINT, HE SAID, JAPAN IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, ESPECIALLY TO CHAIR A CONFERENCE IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, REFUSES TO ACCEPT UNION ORGANIZATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, PARTICULARLY ON THE RAILROADS, AND RECENTLY ARRESTED A NUMBER OF RAILROAD UNION ORGANIZERS. THE JAPANESE CANDIDATE REPRESENTS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, AND HAS NO PARTICULAR EXPERTISE IN THE SHIPPING AREA ANYWAY, AASAROD ADDED. AASAROD SAID WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS INVOLVED ALL AGREE JAPAN IS UNACCEPTABLE.

2. AASAROD SAID NORWAY HAD CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM PUTTING FORWARD HAREIDE'S CANDIDACY OFFICIALLY, WAITING TO SEE IF AN ACCEPTABLE WESTERN CANDIDATE COULD BE AGREED UPON, UNTIL THE JAPANESE ANNOUNCEMENT FORCED THEM TO LAUNCH HAREIDE. HE SAID THE NORWEGIANS WERE CERTAINLY NOT INSISTING ON HAREIDE, OR A CONFIDENTIAL

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NORWEGIAN CANDIDATE, ONLY ONE ACCEPTABLE FROM A TRADE UNION POINT OF VIEW. HE IMPLIED HAREIDE MIGHT BE THE EASIEST WESTERN CANDIDATE FOR WHICH TO WIN ACCEPTANCE.

3. AASAROD SAID HE PLANS TO GO TO MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER TO ATTEND A TRANSPORT CONFERENCE AT WHICH BOTH EAST AND WEST EUROPEANS WILL BE REPRESENTED. HE WILL USE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIANS TO HAVE THE EAST EUROPEAN CANDIDATE WITH-

DRAWN AND TO ARRANGE EAST EUROPEAN ACCEPTANCE OF HAREIDE OR ANOTHER WESTERN CANDIDATE ACCEPTABLE FROM A TRADE UNION POINT OF VIEW. HE SAID HE WAS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE SOVIET'S GENERAL OPENESS TO PERSUASION, BUT THAT THE SOVIET'S HAD LEGITIMATE SHIPPING INTERESTS THEY WERE INTERESTED IN ADVANCING. NORWAY AND OTHER WEST EUROPEANS COULD RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT MANY OF THESE INTERESTS ON THEIR MERITS, AASAROD SAID, BUT WOULD HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN RECOGNIZING THEM UNLESS THE SOVIETS WERE OPEN TO THE WESTERN TRADE UNION POINT OF VIEW IN THE ILO. HE IS UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW EFFECTIVE THIS LEVERAGE WILL BE, BUT FEELS IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH A TRY.

4. LABATT SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD REPORT AASAROD'S POINT OF VIEW TO THE DEPARTMENT, BUT ASKED AASAROD AGAIN TO CONSIDER THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN AND REASONING. AASAROD RETURNS FROM VACATION AUGUST 8 AND WILL MEET WITH LABATT TO DISCUSS STATUS OF SITUATION.

5. COMMENT. ALLEGED JAPANESE SUPPRESSION OF TRANSPORT SECTOR PUBLIC UNION ORGANIZATION IS AN EVIDENTLY IMPORTANT FACTOR OF WHICH EMBASSY WAS UNAWARE. AASAROD, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WILL BE INFLUENTIAL IN LABOR MOVEMENT, PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DECISION REGARDING THE ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE, WHICH LIES IN HIS JURISDICTION. HE IS PRO-WESTERN AND WELL-KNOWN TO US TRANSPORT AND LONGSHOREMAN'S UNIONS. LO WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FOLLOW AASAROD'S LEAD IN ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE, AND LABOR GOVERNMENT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO GO AGAINST LO ON ILO MATTERS, PARTICULARLY WHERE QUESTION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS INVOLVED.

7. EMBOFF IS SEEKING OBTAIN FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY JULY 23 FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT GON POSITION (REF D).

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